

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-10, 12-14 and 23-31 remain in this application. In this response, Applicants have canceled claims 15 and 19.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 1-10, 12-14 and 23-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morscheck et al (Patent No.: 6,076,080) Filing date of Nov. 4, 1997) (hereinafter “Morscheck”), in view of Larcheveque et al (Pub. No.: US 2004/0189708 A1: Filing date of March 28, 2003) (hereinafter “Larcheveque”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner asserts that Morscheck discloses the elements of claims 1 and 23. In particular, the Examiner asserts that Morscheck describes each element of claims 1 and 23 except the elements of g) sending a query to the user to create a new rule when no rule matches the validation rule description and storing the created rule in the rules repository; and h) retrieving the selected rule from the rules repository for incorporation into the electronic form. Examiner further asserts that Larcheveque teaches the steps of: g) sending a query to the user to create a new rule when no rule matches the validation rule description and storing the created rule in the rules repository; and h) retrieving the selected rule from the rules repository for incorporation into the electronic form.

Applicants have amended the embodiments of the present invention to include the limitations of: 1) linking software instructions that implement validation rules to records in the repository that correspond to each validation rule; and 2) automatically installing software instructions that execute the selected validation rule. These steps provide substantial improvement over the conventional methods of Morscheck and Larcheveque.

Applicants' present invention describes a method and system for creating a validation rules repository for electronic form validation rules. These rules would govern the inputting of data into electronic forms. Software instructions that implement these validation rules would be linked to a record in the repository corresponding to each

validation rule. During the creation of an electronic form on a web page, the software instructions that execute a rule for a particular data input field on the form would be automatically installed within the web page. This automatic rule installation is a substantial improvement from the current process of manually installing the code for a validation rule each time a form creator desires to use that rule. In addition to incorporating existing validation rules, the present invention provides for the creation of new validation rules and the storage of these newly created rules in the rules repository.

In the method of the present invention, the creator of an electronic form will desire information for a particular field on the form. This field could be for example a zip code field. The person supplying the information would enter his/her zip code in that field. However, the form creator may desire that the zip code be only five digits in length instead of the nine-digit zip codes. Therefore, the form creator desires to have a form validation rule for the zip code that will enforce this five-digit limitation. In the present invention, the form creator would access the rules repository to retrieve a zip code validation rule that limits the zip code to only five numerical digits. Once in the repository, the creator may desire to view the list of available rules. It is possible that there will be multiple zip code rules from which to select. In this case, the creator would select the rule that best achieves the creator's desires.

Instead of viewing a list of validation rules, another alternative approach could be for the form creator to enter a description of the rule that the creator wants to implement. With either approach, there is an identification of the specific rule desired for the information in that particular field on the form. Software code (instructions) that executes the desired rule is retrieved from a storage location pointed to by information in the pointer field of the selected rule. After the retrieval of the software code, there is an identification of the field in the electronic form for which the selected rule will validate submitted information.

Morscheck describes an order entry system comprising a first computer system, a printing station computer system, a form design repository, a second computer system, a validation engine, and a pricing engine. The first computer system captures form design data and the second computer generates a form price, validates the form, and transmits a

validated and priced order to the printing station computer system. The second computer is also programmed to store an index of form design files in the form design repository. The forms order entry system is also programmed to determine manufacturability of an ordered form by comparing its form design data to a set of validation rules and route manufacturability exceptions to a selected one of a plurality of exception handling locations.

Morscheck uses validation rules in the second computer to validate the design data captured in the first computer. This activity is a standard action and use in electronic forms. The information/data captured in the first computer is not information describing the function of a validation rule. Morscheck is a method and system for designing forms. In Applicants' invention, there is a desire to retrieve a particular validation rule. The information describing the rule is submitted and a search of the rules repository is performed to retrieve the rule. If the search does not find a rule that matches the description of the rules, the user is given an opportunity to create such a rule. The design data in Morscheck is not a description of a rule, but is the specification for an order form. Any comparison step in Morscheck is to determine the forms order by comparing the form design data with a set of validation rules. Morscheck seeks to determine the manufacturability and feasibility of making an order form. Applicants' present invention has the capability to 1) link software instructions that implement validation rules to records in the repository that correspond to each validation rule; and 2) to automatically install software instructions that execute the selected validation rule.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to present a prima facie case of obviousness. As described above, Morscheck (U.S. patent 6,076,080), the primary reference, fails to teach (inter alia) the elements in Applicants' invention of 1) linking software instructions that implement validation rules to records in the repository that correspond to each validation rule; and 2) automatically installing software instructions that execute the selected validation rule.

With regard to Larcheveque (U.S. Publication 2004/0189708), the Examiner asserts that Larcheveque teaches the element of sending a query to the user to create a new rule when no rule matches the validation rule description and storing the created rule

in the rules repository. A system and method validating entry of data into a structured data file in real-time is described. The system and method also described a real-time validation tool that enables a developer to create custom validation rules.

Although Larcheveque does provide the opportunity to create validation, unlike Applicants' present invention, Larcheveque does not provide the ability to link software instructions that implement validation rules to records in the repository that correspond to each validation rule; or the ability to automatically install software instructions that execute the selected validation rule.

Larcheveque fails to provide the deficiencies of linking software instructions that implement validation rules to records in the repository that correspond to each validation rule; or the ability to automatically install software instructions that execute the selected validation rule. Thus, Larcheveque fails to teach the missing limitations. Moreover, the combination of Morscheck with Larcheveque would fail to provide the missing limitations. Thus, Morscheck alone or in combination with Larcheveque fails to support a finding of obviousness.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of the claims.

Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of the claims. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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